

60,000 Mile Car Maintenance Guide

With Explanations below
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Car Maintenance Item	Recommended <u>I</u> nspect or <u>R</u> eplace	Actual <u>I</u> or <u>R</u> & Date	Brand Used	Warranty Period
Example-Battery	R	R 11/5/02	AC Delco	5 Years
Air Filter	R			
Battery	I			
Belts	R			
Brakes-Pads/Fluid	I			
Differential Fluid	R			
Radiator Hoses	R			
Engine Oil	I			
Power Steering Fluid	R			
Shocks and Struts	I			
Tires *	I			
Transmission Fluid	I			
Wiper Blades	I			
Washer Fluid	I			
Exterior Care	I			
Timing Belt	R			
Lights and Bulbs	I			
A/C System	I			
Front Suspension	I			

* Tires should be rotated and balanced every 15,000 miles.

Vehicle: _____

Performed by: _____ Cost:\$ _____

Owner's Notes: _____

Shop's Notes: _____

(items noted during vehicle inspection, repairs needed, etc.)

Use the following matrix to plan regular car maintenance. This schedule is an excellent source of information for:

- Performing maintenance items yourself where possible and suitable
- Verifying that your mechanic's recommendations are appropriate
- Planning your budget to accommodate necessary future repairs
- Understand what repairs are being recommended and why
- Provide an easy to read and understand guide for the lay person
- Established a work history log for your vehicle

This schedule is appropriate for most American, European and Japanese automobiles. As always, consult your owner's manual for specific items related to your make and model. Information and instructions in your owner's manual supersede this schedule, which means that if your manual recommends replacing the timing belt at 50,000 miles, do not wait until the 60,000 mark as shown in this matrix.

This guide is meant to supplement the manufacturer recommendations for your specific vehicle, and should not replace such recommendations.

Wherever possible we have given recommendations of aftermarket products that we have found to be reliable and in our opinion, of good quality. These recommendations were added to inform the vehicle operator of products that may or may not be suitable for their specific vehicle. We recommend these products strictly as helpful insight..

This guide may be reprinted in its entirety, as long as all resources and links are in place.

Brought to you by www.trustmymechanic.com the honest mechanic working for YOU!

Explanations of Recommendations

Air filter - Replace the air filter about every 15,000 miles for normal driving conditions. A dirty air filter will not cause the engine to run bad, stall, or misfire. A dirty filter can cause reduced fuel economy and higher exhaust emission gases. Fram filters offers air, fuel, oil, pcv and interior cabin filters for most cars and trucks. We have been using Fram filters in my shop for years and they are probably one of the most recognizable aftermarket filter brands on the market. You can find money saving coupons and specials at their website WWW.Fram.com

Battery - Check terminals and cables--loose or dirty battery cables are a common "no start" condition. Cable ends and battery terminals should be cleaned with a wire brush and light sand paper periodically to remove any corrosion build up. Battery terminal protecting spray coatings can also be helpful in reducing the formation of corrosion. I have used A/C Delco batteries for many years and find them to be very dependable and 100% maintenance free. More information about their batteries visit www.AC Delco.com

Caution: remove all metal objects like wrist watches and rings before working around a battery-a spark or fire can occur (I have the scars to prove it.)

Battery Load - Battery "load" is how much load or drain can be placed on the electrical system before the battery begins to discharge itself. Think of it as how much electricity the battery can store before having to be recharged. It is not uncommon for batteries to go completely "flat" or discharged without ever giving a warning signal to the operator.

Have the mechanic check the battery condition and load levels at every oil change interval if the battery is over 2 years old to ensure the battery will not leave you unexpectedly stranded. A weak battery that is not storing enough power will cause the alternator to work harder and possibly cause premature alternator failure. Dirty or corroded battery terminals can severely reduce the lifespan of the battery and alternator. A quick and inexpensive battery check and cable inspection can be done at each oil change.

The replacement battery should be the same size, have the same battery cable connections, and should be the same electrical capacity as the original battery. To learn more about automotive batteries, go to www.AC Delco.com We recommend AC Delco as our premium replacement battery supplier. Another great site for ALL kinds of batteries at great prices Batteries.com!! This is the way to buy batteries.

Belts Check for worn or loose belts. Belts should be replaced if they are worn on the edges, frayed, or cracked. Do not spray silicone or WD40-type chemicals on a noisy belt-it will usually just make the noise worse. Check the tension on each belt, and see if anything is

rubbing or coming in contact with it. I have used Gates belts, radiator and heater hoses and timing belts for years and highly recommend them for aftermarket replacement rubber components. Visit the Gates Belts website and try their online part catalog. WWW.GatesBelts.com For Gates belts and hoses

Brakes

Inspect: Check the brake fluid level. The fluid level should only need to be slightly topped off occasionally. If more than 2 oz. of fluid is needed, the brake system should be inspected for leaks and component wear. Add only the recommended type of brake fluid as listed in the owner's manual. Do not add any other fluid to the brake fluid reservoir, and keep all foreign objects like fingers out of the fluid. The fluid in the reservoir should be clear in appearance and free of dirt and debris.

Replace: Brake fluid retains moisture and should be flushed and re-bled (remove the air from the system) to keep brakes working effectively. Check brake pad and shoe wear. Don't wait until you hear grinding noises to have the brakes inspected. Have brakes checked periodically for wear. Some warning signs of brake problems are: noises when brakes are applied, the steering wheel shakes when brakes are applied, needing to add more than 2 oz of brake fluid to the brake fluid reservoir, a soft or squishy brake pedal, or the brake pedal goes to the floor slowly while brakes are applied. To learn more about which brake parts are right for your vehicle visit WWW.Raybestos.com for more information about Raybestos quality brake parts that I use in my shop.

Differential Fluid - (A rear differential is only found on rear wheel drive cars and trucks.)

Inspect: The rear differential (commonly referred to as the rear end) fluid or grease should be checked during each routine oil change and topped off as needed with the fluid prescribed in the owner's manual.

Replace: Drain and flush the rear end fluid periodically to remove any metal filings that have normally accumulated in the differential housing. Replace the differential cover gasket and add any recommended supplemental additive prescribed in the owner's manual. I have been using Wynn's differential fluid additives for years and strongly believe in their line of fluid additives. Visit www.WYNN.be to learn more about their product line.

Radiator and Heater Hoses

Inspect: To check for leaks or bulges with the engine cold, squeeze the radiator hoses with one hand at all points along the hose. If soft spots, bulges, or a "cracking feeling" is identified, replace ALL water hoses at the same time.

Replace: Replace all water hoses including heater, bypass, and radiator hoses at the same time. The antifreeze/coolant, hose clamps and radiator cap should also be replaced at this time. If the car overheated or has been running hotter than normal, replacing the thermostat during this time might also be a good idea. Visit the Gates Rubber Company website and try their online part catalog. WWW.Gates.com

Engine Oil

Inspect: Check oil level when engine is cold and with vehicle on level ground.

Replace: Change oil and filter. Check all fluids, tires and air pressure, air filter, belts and hoses and spare tire condition when changing the engine oil. This is also a great time to clean the corrosion from the battery cables. I have been using Amalie motor oil for many years at my shop. it is a great product at a great price. Check the website for special offers

WWW.Amalie.com

Want to learn more about motor oils? [CLICK HERE](#) Exposing the Myth of the 3,000 Mile Oil Change

Power Steering Fluid

Inspect: Check level. Power steering fluid can either be pink or clear in color, usually only a very small amount is needed to top off fluid level. If more than 2 oz. is needed, have the system checked for leaks or wear.

Replace: Power steering fluid just like any other fluid becomes dirty and contaminated and should be replaced with clean fluid periodically. Dirty power steering fluid can cause the power steering pump or the power steering gear assemblies to fail and can cause premature wear to occur. For great power steering fluid additives and conditioners check

WWW.Wynns.be

Shock Absorbers and Struts

Inspect: Check for fluid leaks around the shock. Some shocks are filled with oil and a visible fluid leak can be detected. Excessive bumpy ride, leaning, or swaying in one direction more than normal on brake application or around turns can also indicate worn or damaged shocks. I have been using Monroe gas filled shocks and struts for many years with great success. For a full line of shocks and struts visit WWW.Monroe.com for details about their lifetime guarantee.

Replace: Replace all four shocks/struts at the same time to get maximum benefit and drivability. In some cases a wheel alignment should be performed after new struts are installed.

Tires

Inspect: Check pressure and tread wear. Check air pressure cold unless otherwise described in the owner's manual. Inspect tires for uneven tread wear, punctures, bulges, or cuts in sidewall of the tire.

[The Tire Rack.com](http://TheTireRack.com) has brand name tires, custom wheels, brake and suspension parts at the best prices we have seen. They offer a great warranty and drop shipment capability to your local repair shop is available. Don't know what size tire your car should have? [The Tire Rack.com](http://TheTireRack.com) has a very powerful and helpful online catalog to help you make the best replacement choice for tires and custom wheels. We highly recommend The Tire Rack! Check out their Website [The Tire Rack.com](http://TheTireRack.com) for more information and to find a installer in your zip code.

Transmission Fluid

Inspect: Usually the transmission fluid level is checked with the engine hot and in park, and with engine running. Check your owner's manual for proper fluid type and proper fluid level inspection procedures. Automatic transmission fluid is usually pink in color. Most standard shift transmissions will have a drain plug to service the fluid. Some stick shift transmissions

use engine oil as a lubricant; consult your owner's manual when servicing. It could also be a good idea to have the replacement fluid type information available for the repair shop.

Replace: Consult vehicle owner manual for proper fluid type and service interval. If applicable, replace the internal automatic transmission filter or clean the re-usable screen when changing the transmission fluid. A transmission pan gasket will also be required during a filter change. Some newer model vehicles require special additives and can be found at www.Wynns.be and detergents---consult owner's manual for fluid specifications. I use transmission filter kits from WWW.ATP.com visit their website to see all their transmission parts.

Windshield Wiper Blades

Inspect: Check wiper blades for wear and washer fluid level during a regular oil and filter change. Don't make the mistake of never thinking about replacing or inspecting the wiper blades until you really need them.

Replace: Some wiper blades are different lengths for driver and passenger side. Measure old blades before replacing with new ones. Manufactures like Anco, offer many different premium replacement wiper blade types (i.e. for snow and ice, off road, and severe duty). Check out their website for more information on their complete product line WWW.ANCO.com

Windshield Washer Fluid Check level. Anti-freezing and water repelling additives can also be added to the washer fluid reservoir. Not only will washer fluid aid in removing dirt from the windshield, but also it will act as a lubricant to prolong the life of the wiper blade. Adding rubbing alcohol to the washer fluid can be harmful to the rubber on the wiper blades. Check out ANCO wiper products at their website for more information on their complete product line WWW.ANCO.com

Exterior Care Regular car washes can remove air borne chemicals through "acid rain" that get deposited onto the paint surface, and dull the layer of "clear coating" that is meant to protect the paint and help promote shine and luster. Car wash soap should be used and not dish or household soaps, as their chemical makeup can damage the clear coat. Semi-annual waxing of the exterior paint surface will help to protect this important clear coat. A new wax that seems to be taking the car detail market by storm is WWW.5StarShine.com Most car waxes and polishes last less than a year, but 5 Star is guaranteed to protect up to 5 years. Try it out for yourself!

Timing Belt - Replace as scheduled if applicable for your vehicle. Timing belts are commonly used on Japanese cars. The timing belt is a rubber belt that drives the engine's internal components. The timing belt is not easily visible and should be replaced at the indicated mileage and time not on visual wear like a normal drive belt. If the timing belt breaks, the engine stops and costly internal engine damage can occur. The water pump on some vehicles is driven by the timing belt, and should be replaced with the timing belt replacement. Consult owner's manual or ask the repair shop if this is the case on your car. Not sure if your car or truck has a timing belt? Visit the Gates Rubber Company website and try their online part catalog. WWW.Gates.com

Lights and Bulbs Save yourself the hassle of failing a vehicle inspection or being pulled over by the police for a tail or brake light bulb out. Have all lights checked when performing a regular engine oil change. Wagner lighting has quality WWW.WAGNER.COM light bulbs for all automotive needs.

A/C Refrigerant Level and Pressures - Air conditioning refrigerant commonly known as "Freon" should be checked for proper pressures and level of refrigerant oil periodically. Low Freon and refrigerant oil levels can cause premature wear on air compressors, and decrease overall performance of the a/c system. Although the a/c system is a sealed unit, it is not uncommon to have to add small amounts of refrigerant (Freon) periodically due to small leaks and seepage. Freon is a gas that is under high pressure and should only be serviced by a trained professional. Four Seasons Temperature Control offers a large array of a/c and heating parts for cars, trucks, off road and heavy equipment. You can see their product line up at WWW.4seasons.com

Front End Alignment - The front end components of a vehicle can be out of alignment, but not give any indication or warning signs. Shimmying and shakes in the front end are usually not caused by the car being "out of alignment," but by out of balance or lack of rotation with the tires. The vehicle pulling to one side, or unusual tire wear are the two most common "out of alignment" warning signs. Check the alignment and all wearable parts in the front end periodically. Always have the front end aligned when replacing tires. A front end alignment is commonly referred to as a "four wheel alignment" these days. Some adjustments to the rear alignment are available on most newer model vehicles, thus the term four wheel alignment. Moog front end and suspension parts are my favorite check out WWW.MOOG.com